



Technical Update PK-2008-02

May 23, 2008

Changes to Loan Data Submittal

This information is intended for the person in your organization who is responsible for working with NSLDS. If that person is not you, please forward this update to the appropriate person.

Introduction

Perkins Technical Update PK-2007-02 notified Perkins loan data providers that they are required to begin reporting separate award year loans to the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS). For NSLDS reporting purposes an award year includes all payment periods within an award year, without regard to when the disbursement was made. If a school includes a Perkins award for a period that crosses over an award year (begins prior to July 1 and ends on or after July 1) it must assign that payment period and the award to either the ending award year or the beginning award year. While accounting and FISAP requirements provide that it is the actual date of disbursement that determines to which FISAP the disbursement is reported, loan annual maximums and NSLDS reporting must include the award for the crossover payment period along with awards for other payment period within the award year.

Separate reporting of Perkins Loans must begin with loans made for any payment period that is part of the 2008-09 award year. Loans made for award years prior to 2008-09 may be reported as they have in the past (bundled as one or separate for each award year). The purpose of this Technical Update is to provide detailed information on the reporting requirements.

System and Documentation Changes

To facilitate the changes, NSLDS has updated the Data Provider Instructions (DPI) on the following loan record fields:

- **Amount of Loan (Field Code 261):** For loans disbursed for the award years prior to the 2008-09 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009), schools were permitted to report the Amount of Loan as the cumulative net amount of disbursements. The new requirement is to report the total amount of the Perkins Loan that has been awarded (if known) or that has been disbursed to date for award years beginning with award year 2008-09.

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The Perkins program limits are **\$4,000** for undergraduate students and **\$6,000** for graduate/professional students per award year. However, CFR § 674.12 allows schools to increase Perkins loan limits by 20% for students in a study abroad program. To accommodate possible higher amounts, NSLDS will allow a tolerance in our edits for the loan limits.

- If the first disbursement is on or after July 1, 2008, new edits will prevent loans from loading to the NSLDS database if:
 - the Amount of Loan is over \$4,800 and the Student Academic Level is 1-5 (undergraduate) or
 - the Amount of Loan is over \$7,200 and the Student Academic Level is A, B, C, D, or G (graduate/professional).
- Error 1204 has been removed from this field because it is no longer applicable.
- **Amount of Disbursement (Field Code 267):** For loans first disbursed prior to July 1, 2008, the Amount of Disbursement was required to equal the Amount of Loan. For loans beginning with award year 2008-09 on or after July 1, 2008, data providers must report the net amount of the loan disbursed to a student.
 - A new edit will prevent loans from loading to the NSLDS database if the Amount of Disbursement exceeds the Amount of Loan reported in Field Code 261.
- **Date of First Disbursement (Field Code 225):** For loans first disbursed prior to July 1, 2008, the Date of First Disbursement could remain the same for a Perkins loan which spanned multiple award years. For loans beginning with award year 2008-09, a separate loan must be reported for each award year and the Date of First Disbursement will be the first disbursement for the loan for that award year. There are no new edits on this field but changes to the DPI reflect the current requirements.
- **Student Academic Level (Field Code 270):** For loans first disbursed prior to July 1, 2008, NSLDS did not use this field, and data providers populated it with the letter, “N”. For loans beginning with award year 2008-09, first disbursed on or after July 1, 2008, data providers should report the student’s academic level at the time of the first disbursement of the loan for that award year.
 - A new edit will prevent loans from loading to the NSLDS database if the Student Academic Level is not a valid academic level from Appendix B, Table B–13: Academic Level Codes.
 - Error 1361 has been removed from this field because it is no longer applicable.
- **Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance (Field Code 284):** For loans first disbursed prior to July 1, 2008, the maximum Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance was \$40,000. This edit remains, but the Amount of OPB will also be edited by award year.
 - If the first disbursement is on or after July 1, 2008, new edits will prevent loans from loading to the NSLDS database if:
 - the Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance is over \$4,800 and the Student Academic Level is 1-5 (undergraduate) or
 - the Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance is over \$7,200 and the Student Academic Level is A, B, C, D, or G (graduate/professional).

Please replace previous DPI field code descriptions with the attached DPI Change Pages.

Attachments:

- *Attachment A: Appendix A Loan Definition change page*
- *Attachment B: Appendix A Amount of Loan change page*
- *Attachment C: Appendix A Amount of Disbursement change page*
- *Attachment D: Appendix A Date of First Disbursement change page*
- *Attachment E: Appendix A Student's Academic Level change page*
- *Attachment F: Appendix A Amount of Outstanding Principal Balance change page*
- *Attachment G: Appendix B Table B-13: Academic Level Codes change page*

If you have any questions, please contact the NSLDS Customer Service Center at (800) 999-8219, or e-mail NSLDS@ed.gov